

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are presently pending in the application. Claims 35, 39, 43, and 44 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of these claims. The present amendment makes minor changes in the specification, amends Figure 3, and adds new Figures 7A, 7B, and 8.

In the Office Action mailed March 30, 2005, claims 1-34 were indicated to be allowable and claims 35-44 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application is as follows:

(A) The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a); and

(B) Claims 35-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

(A) Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under Rule 1.83(a) as failing to show and label an electrical system having a first and a second contact and a contact region (as recited in claims 4, 9, 14, 21, 26, and 31), and an electrical system having a first and a second contact and an electrical conductor (as recited in claims 5, 10, 15, 22, 27, and 32). Although applicants do not concede the merits of the objection to the drawings, in an effort to expedite prosecution Figures 7A, 7B, and 8 have been added to the application. The subject matter of Figures 7A, 7B, and 8 is supported by the text of the original application and, therefore, these new figures do not add any new matter to the application. The new figures provide further support for the features of claims 4, 5, 9, 10, 14, 15, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31, and 32. Accordingly, the present objection to the drawings under Rule 1.83(a) should be withdrawn.

(B) Response to the Section 112 Rejection of Claims 35-44

Claims 35-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 3652

Attorney Docket No. 291958221US1

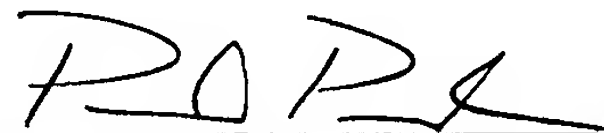
applicant regards as the invention. More specifically, the Examiner states that the claims in question recite that the workpiece is "suspended" and asserts that "[s]uspended means supported from above, [e.g.], a suspension bridge. Supported from below, [e.g.], a pillar supported bridge, is not suspended. Thus suspended in the instant claims is improper and/or inaccurate." (Office Action, paragraphs 4 and 5.)

Although applicants do not concede the merits of the rejection of claims 35-44 under Section 112, in an effort to expedite prosecution claims 35, 39, 43, and 44 have been amended to remove the term "suspend." Accordingly, the Section 112 rejection of claims 35-44 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and a mailing of a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-3258.

Respectfully submitted,
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Amendments to the Drawings:

Enclosed herewith is an amended version of the figures, including new Figure 3 in which reference number 332 has been added, and new Figures 7A, 7B, and 8. The subject matter of Figures 7A, 7B, and 8 is supported by the text of the original application. Therefore, these new figures do not add any new matter to the application. In accordance with the Office's revised format, these drawings have individually been labeled "Replacement Sheet."